

Appln No. 09/765,535
Amdt date June 18, 2007
Reply to Office action of January 17, 2007

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Specification.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for calculating travel costs for a user comprising:
prompting a user to enter information for each of a plurality of types of travel products;
receiving information for each of the plurality of types of travel products from the user;
determining a cost of each of the plurality of types of travel products by searching an electronic database using the received information;
after determining the cost, reporting the cost of each of the plurality of types of travel products to the user;
prompting the user to request alternative travel product information;
receiving a user request to receive alternative travel product information;
determining alternative travel products to offer the user by accessing an electronic discount database based on ~~at least one a plurality of~~ alternative criteria, wherein the ~~at least one criteria is~~ alternative travel products are determined by automatically altering concurrently the information for ~~at least one of the a~~ plurality of types of travel products received from the user;
and
reporting the determined alternative travel products to the user.
2. (Currently amended) The method for calculating travel costs of Claim 1 wherein ~~reporting the cost and reporting the determined~~ alternative travel products ~~comprise comprises~~ displaying a range of prices for each travel product based upon availability of products from different types of product providers; and displaying a total price range for all of the requested travel products.
3. (Previously Presented) The method for calculating travel costs of Claim 1 wherein receiving information further comprises receiving from the user an airline departure date, a departure location, and a destination location.

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4. (Previously Presented) The method for calculating travel costs of Claim 3 wherein receiving information further comprises receiving from the user a hotel location and a number of nights to reside at the hotel location.

5. (Previously Presented) The method for calculating travel costs of Claim 4 wherein receiving information further comprises receiving from the user a rental car location and a number of days a car will be rented.

6. (Previously Presented) The method for calculating travel costs of Claim 3 wherein determining the cost further comprises determining a number of nights to reside at a hotel location and a number of days a car will be rented based on the airline departure date and a return date.

7. (Previously Presented) The method for calculating travel costs of Claim 6 wherein determining the cost further comprises determining the hotel location and the rental car location using the destination location.

8. (Currently amended) The method for calculating travel costs of Claim 5 wherein the ~~at least one~~ plurality of alternative criteria comprises at least ~~[[one]]~~ two of the group consisting of: the departure location, the airline departure date, the destination location, a return date, number of nights to reside at the hotel location, a type of hotel, the number of days a car will be rented, and a type of car rented, to conform to the requirements of at least one discount in the discount database.

9. (Currently amended) The method for calculating travel costs of Claim 8 further comprising prompting a user to ~~select purchase~~ travel products for purchase.

10. (Currently amended) The method for calculating travel costs of Claim 9 further comprising:

- prompting the user to enter personal information;
- receiving personal information from the user;
- prompting the user to enter payment information;

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receiving payment information from the user; and

contacting travel product providers of the ~~purchased~~—travel products selected for purchase by the user, making reservations for the travel products to be purchased, and making payment to the travel product providers for the travel products to be purchased.

11. (Previously Presented) The method for calculating travel costs of Claim 1 wherein receiving information further comprises receiving from the user at least one of the group consisting of: a cruise departure date, a cruise departure location, a cruise destination location, a cruise return date, a cruise provider, a cruise ship, a cruise name, and a cruise passenger class.

12. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

prompting a user to enter information for a plurality of types of travel products;

receiving information for a plurality of types of travel products from the user;

selecting a plurality of travel products comprising at least two travel product types by searching an electronic database of travel products using the received information and determining a combined cost of the selected plurality of travel products;

searching the electronic database of travel products for automatically generated alterations of the plurality of travel products and selecting an alternative combination of travel products comprising at least two travel product types with a lower combined cost than the selected plurality of travel products; and

reporting the combined cost of the selected plurality of travel products and the combined cost of the alternative combination of travel products to the user.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 12 wherein requesting information further comprises prompting the user to enter at least one of the group consisting of: airline, cruise, train, hotel, and car rental information.

14. (Previously Presented) A system for determining travel product prices for users comprising:

an information server coupled to a computer network coupled to a user terminal;

a first database coupled to the computer network for storing airplane flight information;

a second database coupled to the computer network for storing hotel information; and

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a third database coupled to the computer network for storing rental car information;

wherein the information server is configured to receive a request for information on a plurality of types of travel products from the user terminal where the request includes selection criteria for the travel products;

wherein the information server is configured to aggregate airplane flight information from the first database, hotel information stored in the second database, and car rental information stored in the third database, based on the selection criteria, and transmit the airplane flight information, hotel information, and car rental information to the user terminal to be displayed as a single report with information on each of the plurality of types of travel products; and

wherein the information server is configured to calculate variations of the information on the plurality of travel products using the selection criteria or a variation of the selection criteria and provide alternate travel products based on the calculations in the single report.

15. (Previously Presented) The system for determining travel product prices of Claim 14 further comprising:

an airplane flight discount database;

a hotel discount database; and

a car rental discount database;

wherein the information server is further configured to obtain discounted travel product information from the airplane flight discount database, the car rental discount database, and the car rental discount database; and

wherein the information server is further configured to use the discount travel product information in calculating variations of the information on the plurality of travel products.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) A method for calculating travel costs for a user comprising:
prompting a user to enter information for a plurality of travel products;
receiving information for a plurality of travel products from the user;

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selecting a plurality of travel products by searching an electronic database of travel products using the received information and determining cost of the selected plurality of travel products;

reporting, after the first calculation step, the cost of each of the selected plurality of travel products to the user;

accessing a discount database to determine alternative travel products to offer the user using a plurality of search criteria automatically generated from the information received from the user;

determining the alternative travel products to offer the user by concurrently altering the information for a plurality of types of travel products based on the plurality of search criteria;
and

reporting the alternative travel products are reported to the user.

18. (Previously Presented) The method for calculating travel costs of Claim 17 wherein the prompting further comprises prompting a user to select attributes for at least one of the group consisting: of cruise, airplane, hotel, and car rental related travel products.

19. (Previously Presented) The method for calculating travel costs of Claim 18 wherein the reporting the cost of each of the selected plurality of travel products further comprises displaying a range of prices for each selected travel product based upon availability of products from different product providers and displaying a total price range for all of the selected travel products.

20. (Previously Presented) The method for calculating travel costs of Claim 18 wherein reporting the alternative travel comprises displaying alternative travel products in sets, and displaying a total price range for all of the selected alternative travel products in a given set.

21. (Currently amended) A method comprising:
providing a user interface to a user over a communications network;
causing the user interface to prompt the user to enter information for a plurality of types of travel products into the user interface;

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receiving the information over the communications network;
searching a first database on a server to determine the cost of the plurality of types of travel products;
generating a report to be displayed through the user interface, the report comprising the cost of each travel product to be displayed concurrently;
causing the user interface to prompt the user to request alternate travel product information;
generating alternative travel product search criteria automatically based on the information from the user;
accessing a second database to determine alternative travel products of a plurality of travel product types to offer the user; and
generating a report to be displayed through the user interface, the report comprising the cost of [[each]] alternative travel products for a plurality of travel product types to be displayed concurrently.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein a processor in the server executes the searching of the first database.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 21, further comprising:
transmitting the reports over the communication network to a user device.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein the communications network is the Internet.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein the first and second databases are each a part of a larger database.

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26. (Previously Presented) The method for calculating travel costs of Claim 1, wherein dates of travel, type of accommodation, or type of rental car are automatically altered from the received information to determine alternative travel products.

27. (Previously Presented) The system for determining travel product prices of Claim 14, wherein variations of the information on the plurality of types of travel products include variations of dates of travel, type of accommodation, or type of car rental.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein generating alternative travel product search criteria automatically based on the information from the user includes altering dates of travel, type of accommodation, or type of car rental.

29. (Previously Presented) The method for calculating travel costs of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of types of travel products comprises at least two selected from the list of: hotel products, airline products, cruise products, car rental products, and train products.

30. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the electronic database and the electronic discount database are each a part of a larger database.

31. (New) The method of Claim 17, wherein the electronic database and the discount database are each a part of a larger database.